

Pay Bill



9 to 4:30

Pay Hike Bill Nearing LBJ's Signature

By JOHN CRAMER

The word is that President Johnson "probably" will sign the Federal employe pay raise bill today—but the word could change and the signing could be later.

Meantime, here are two other important pay developments:

✓ Civil Service Commission has confirmed this column's report of several weeks ago that the vast majority of Government premium-paid shortage-category employes, including the important engineer-scientist group, will get the full benefit of the raise. (The bill gives CSC authority to decide how much, if any, increase will go to the shortage-category people.)

✓ Plans are well advanced in the Senate to correct an oversight in the original bill, and make the raises retroactive to the first pay period after July 1 for upwards of 125,000 non-Classified white collar employes whose rates are set by their agency heads under special laws.

MODELLED

In writing retroactivity into the bill, sponsors modelled the language on that used in a 1955 pay measure. They forgot, however, that the Comptroller General had ruled that the

language was not broad enough to extend retroactivity to non-Classified white collar people.

House-Senate conferees who drafted the final version of the pending bill wanted to correct the oversight, but backed away because of the threat of a point-of-order against it when the bill came up for final passage in the House.

Now, however, Chairman Olin Johnston (D., S. C.) and his Senate Civil Service Committee are all set to tie corrective language onto a House-approved bill extending Government-sponsored group health and life insurance to D. C. temporary teachers with at least two years of service.

APPROVAL

The House bill already has Senate sub-committee approval. The full committee is expected to add retroactivity for the non-Classified workers. And getting final approval in both the House and Senate presumably will be only a formality.

Among employes who will be denied retroactivity should the new legislation by any chance fail are those of National Security Agency, the Space Agency, Atomic Energy Commission, Central Intelligence Agency, Government Printing Office, Selective Service, TVA, local employes of Army's National Guard, and a group of several thousand top engineers and scientists who are paid at agency-set rates.